

# Prekindergarten Expansion Grant

## Guidance:

Absolute Priority I

Invitational Priority I

Invitational Priority II

Absolute Priority II

Absolute Priority III

Application  
SFY 2015

Please return completed  
application to MSDE by  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Maryland State Department of  
Education

Division of Early Childhood  
Development  
200 West Baltimore St., 10th floor,  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**Document  
available in  
alternative format.**

**Name of Grant Program:**

Prekindergarten Expansion Grant

**Authorization:**

The Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 (SB 332)

**Purpose:**

1. Expand free access to half-day and full-day public prekindergarten for four-year old children from families with household incomes at or below 300 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for the school year. The household income of 300 percent of FPG defines the eligibility of access to prekindergarten.
2. Expansion of Judy Centers at Title I schools.

**FY15 Fund Amount:** \$4,300,000**Funding per student:** \$5,600 (full-day) \$2,800 (half-day)**Due date for letters of interest:** May 13, 2014**Technical assistance meeting:** May 14, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**Due date for applications:** June 11, 2014**Qualified Vendors:**

May apply for grant funds in accordance with the following categories:

**Absolute priority I:**

Half-day or full-day prekindergarten programs for 20 eligible four-year olds at licensed and state or nationally accredited programs, published at Level 5 of Maryland EXCELS, or a certificate of approval from MSDE in collaboration with a local board of education under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

*Invitational priority I -*

Half-day or full-day prekindergarten for 20 eligible four-year old children enrolled at (1) a network of registered and nationally accredited family child care providers and large family child care homes, or (2) programs with a certificate of approval by MSDE.

Networks must be established by a nonprofit organization and in collaboration with a local board of education under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

*Invitational priority II:*

Half-day or full day prekindergarten program for 20 four-and three year old children in multi-age settings for pedagogical reasons at programs with a certificate of approval from MSDE in collaboration with a local board of education under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Absolute priority II:

Expansion of half-day and full-day prekindergarten program for 20 four-year old children operated by a local board of education.

Absolute priority III:

Establishment of a Judy Center or a satellite to an existing Judy Center at a Title I school operated by a local board of education.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Eligible Four-year old:** A child born on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment and whose family has a household income at or below 300 percent of FPG and has free access to half-day or full-day prekindergarten.

**Absolute priority:** Qualified vendors must meet all requirements pertaining to the priority.

**Invitational priority:** Qualified vendors must meet all of the requirements pertaining to priority I and must meet the invitational priority.

**Access eligibility:** Household income of 300 percent of FPG.

**Title 1 school:** A public school designated by the local board of education as eligible for receiving Title 1 funds for the year of the grant.

**Half-day prekindergarten:** A minimum of 2.5 hours per day for five days a week.

**Full-day prekindergarten:** A minimum of 6.5 hours per day for five days a week.

**School year:** 180 days concurrent with the public school schedule.

**Judy Center:** Partnership between a Title 1 school and early childhood partners in accordance with Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Section § 5-215

**Maryland EXCELS:** Maryland's tiered quality rating and improvement system operated by MSDE.

**Certificate of Approval:** Non-public nursery schools that are in compliance with COMAR 13A.16.16

**Memorandum of Agreement:** Formal agreement, completed and signed, for the purpose of defining the responsibilities of the qualified vendors (Sample MOA in Attachment A)

**Networks of programs serving 20 four-year olds:** Established as a fiscal agent by a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of providing access to publicly funded prekindergarten for 20 eligible four-year olds at several programs formally participating in the network. A Network must provide the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), completed and signed, of all participating programs

- Pedagogical support to each of the participating programs by a teacher in early childhood education certified by the State of Maryland.
- Compliance with the eligibility of qualified vendors, i.e., being accredited by MSDE or a nationally accrediting organization recognized by MSDE, or nursery schools with certificate of approvals.

**Matching Funds:** Applicants are encouraged to include additional public or private funds, posted as in-kind contributions, on the budget form (C-125).

**Attachments:** Three (3) separate applications and a Frequently Asked Question flyer